

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-11

FCC-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 RSC-01 COME-00 CG-00

DOTE-00 DODE-00 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /107 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:DPASSAGE:ILB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062034

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJECT: NORTH WEST CAPE AGREEMENTS

1. THE JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED IN JANUARY FOLLOWING AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR DEFENSE BARNARD'S VISIT WITH THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SPECIFIED THAT DETAILS OF THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAKING THE NAVAL COMMUNICATION STATION AT NORTH WEST CAPE A JOINT FACILITY WOULD BE "WORKED OUT AND COMPLETED IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. NAVY AND THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY." THE U.S. NAVY HAS REVIEWED THE AREAS IN WHICH NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE NECESSARY, AND HAS INDICATED ITS INTENTION TO NEGOTIATE NEW OR AMENDED WRITTEN AGREEMENTS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN NAVY COVERING THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

A. JOINT MANNING

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B. DEPUTY COMMANDER DUTIES

- C. COMMISSARY/EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES FOR RAN PERSONNEL
- D. COST SHARING
- E. MEDICAL SERVICES/LIABILITY FOR RAN PERSONNEL

2. IN ORDER TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THESE AGREEMENTS, THE DIRECTOR OF NAVAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS, RADM BOYES, WILL REQUEST THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY TO APPOINT A NEGOTIATOR OR A NEGOTIATING TEAM. THE U.S. NAVY WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE

COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT NORTH WEST CAPE. WE PROPOSE THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS BE CONDUCTED AT A SITE MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TO BOTH SIDES. OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE NORTH WEST CAPE OR EXMOUTH, SINCE THIS WOULD GIVE THE NEGOTIATORS A FIRST HAND FAMILIARITY WITH THE OPERATIONS AND PROBLEMS INVOLVED.

3. ALL AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE TWO SERVICES WILL BE SUBJECT TO STATE-DEFENSE REVIEW PRIOR TO SIGNATURE. IN CERTAIN CASES, SUCH AS THE COMMISSARY PRIVILEGES AND COST-SHARING AGREEMENTS, NAVY WILL CONSULT WITH DOD AND STATE AT MAJOR STAGES DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. REGARDING THE OTHER PROPOSED AGREEMENTS, THE NAVY WILL ALSO CONSULT AT APPROPRIATE TIMES ON BROADER ISSUES SUCH AS LIABILITY, CLAIMS, AND THE APPLICABILITY OF OTHER U.S.-AUSTRALIAN AGREEMENTS.

4. YOU MAY WISH TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PROPOSED NEGOTIATING PROCEDURES. IN FACT, THE PROCESS HAS ALREADY BEGUN BASED ON MUTUAL AGREEMENTS THAT THEY WERE ACCEPTABLE. IN THE EVENT THAT YOU OR GOA SEE ANY PROBLEM WITH THE MODALITIES OF THE SERVICE-TO-SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS, WE WOULD BE GLAD TO GO OVER THEM WITH DEFENSE. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, TELECOMMUNICATION, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY PLANS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE062034
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DPASSAGE:ILB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740068-0059
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974037/aaaaagkh.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTH WEST CAPE AGREEMENTS
TAGS: MARR, AS, US
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005